

STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

1. – 20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A radioactive therapeutic seed system, comprising:

a plurality of radioactive therapeutic seeds, at least one of the therapeutic seeds having a different level of radioactivity relative to other seeds; wherein each seed has a hole preformed therein, and each seed has a marker in the hole, and the marker in the seed having a different level of radioactivity is a different size or configuration relative to the markers of the other seeds.

~~means for selectively reconfiguring a marker in the at least one of the therapeutic seeds by a physician just prior to insertion of the seed into a patient.~~

22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The system according to claim 22 21, wherein:

~~the markers marker in the seed having a different level of radioactivity has a are of different length than the markers of the other seeds.~~

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein:

~~the means includes a marker in the seed having a different level of radioactivity has a different shape that can be changed by the physician just prior to insertion into the patient than the markers of the other seeds.~~

26. (canceled)

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (previously presented) A radioactive therapeutic seed system, comprising:

    a plurality of therapeutic seeds;

    first markers provided in said seeds;

    at least one the seeds including a preformed opening for receiving a secondary marker capable of distinguishing that seed from others of the seeds in terms of its respective level of radioactivity or half-life; and

    a secondary marker insertable into the preformed opening just prior to insertion of the seed into a patient.

34. (currently amended) The system according to claim 34 33, wherein:

    the preformed openings are provided in the first markers.